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10/733,342

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07/16/2007

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EXAMINER

MISIASZEK, MICHAEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3625

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/16/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/733,342

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Misiaszek

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-5,8,9,13-16 and 20-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,6,7,10-12 and 17-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendments filed 4/17/2007 have been received and reviewed. The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 3-5, 8, 9, 13-16, and 20-22 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-2 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomatsu in view of Chu (US 20020116640 A1).

Regarding Claims 1-2

Tamatsu discloses a shopping mall server in an anonymous electronic funds transfer system, comprising:

- a reception unit operable to receive information about a product selected at a client terminal (at least paragraph [0064]: product information may be retrieved with client terminal)
- a storage unit operable to store a monetary amount of a product provided on an online shopping website, and to store a purchase identifier that identifies a

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purchase of the product selected at the client terminal (at least paragraph [0066]: databases store product information)

- a computing unit operable to calculate a payment sum for the product selected at the client terminal based on the monetary amount of the product stored in the storage unit (at least paragraph [0119]: seller computer outputs calculated subtotal and price)
- a transmission unit operable to, in response to designation of a credit company, send instructions to connect to a website of the designated credit company to the client terminal, the instructions including the purchase identifier and the payment sum (at least paragraph [0084]: client's computer directed to credit company webpage by seller system)
- wherein the purchase identifier comprises a product name formed by encrypting a name of the product selected at the client terminal with a public key that is unique to the online shopping website (at least paragraph [0066]: information databases can store identifiers)
- wherein the reception unit is further operable to receive settlement results including the purchase identifier from the website of the designated credit company (at least paragraph [0092]: client terminal receives settlement approval indication)

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Tamatsu does not disclose:

- the product attached with a label indicating an encrypted addressee name and address, is delivered via a shipping company to the decrypted addressee name and address based on the addressee name and address decrypted by the shipping company

Chu teaches that it is known to include a shipping label attached to a product including a encrypted address and name to which a shipping company ships the product (at least paragraph [0044]) in a similar environment. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the system, as taught by Tamatsu, with the shipping label, as taught by Chu, since such a modification would have provided improved security in on-line commerce through increased anonymity of a purchaser (at least paragraph [0045] of Chu).

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Regarding Claims 6-7

Tamatsu discloses a shopping mall server in an anonymous electronic funds transfer system, comprising:

- a reception unit operable to receive information about a product selected at a client terminal (at least paragraph [0064]: product information may be retrieved with client terminal)
- a storage unit operable to store a monetary amount and a size of the selected product, and to store a purchase identifier that identifies a purchase of the selected product (at least paragraph [0066]: databases store product information)
- a computing unit operable to calculate a payment sum and shipping volume for the selected product based on the monetary amount and size of the product stored in the storage unit (at least paragraph [0119]: seller computer outputs calculated subtotal and price; it is capable of calculating accumulated quantities, such as shipping volume)
- a transmission unit operable to send instructions to connect to a website of a designated credit company, the instructions including the purchase identifier, the payment sum, and the shipping volume to the client terminal, in response to designation of a shipping company (at least paragraph [0084]: client's computer directed to credit company webpage by seller system)

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- wherein the purchase identifier is a product name formed by encrypting a name of the selected product with a public key that is unique to the online shopping website (at least paragraph [0066]: information databases can store identifiers)
- wherein the reception unit is further operable to receive shipping receipt results including the purchase identifier from a website of the designated shipping company (at least paragraph [0092]: client terminal receives settlement approval indication; terminal is operable to receive receipt results)

Tamatsu does not disclose:

- the product attached with a label indicating an encrypted addressee name and address, is delivered via a shipping company to the decrypted addressee name and address based on the addressee name and address decrypted by the shipping company

Chu teaches that it is known to include a shipping label attached to a product including a encrypted address and name to which a shipping company ships the product (at least paragraph [0044]) in a similar environment. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the system, as taught by Tamatsu, with the shipping label, as taught by Chu, since such a modification would have provided improved security in on-line commerce through increased anonymity of a purchaser (at least paragraph [0045] of Chu).

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2. Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamatsu in view of Chu as applied above, and further in view of Oshima.

Tamatsu and Chu discloses an anonymous electronic funds transfer method and system comprising the steps of:

- receiving information about a product selected at a client terminal (at least paragraph [0081] of Tamatsu: user accesses product information)
- storing a monetary amount of the selected product provided by an online shopping website (at least paragraph [0066] of Tamatsu: databases store product information including product price)
- calculating a payment sum for the selected based on the stored monetary amount of the selected product (at least paragraph [0081] of Tamatsu: prices and subtotal calculated and presented to user)
- sending, in response to designation of a credit company, instructions to connect to a website of the designated credit company, the instructions including the payment sum, to said client terminal (at least paragraph [0084] of Tamatsu: user selects credit company and is directed to company's website)
- receiving settlement results including the purchase identifier from the website of the designated credit company (at least paragraph [0092] of Tamatsu: notification of payment sent from credit company to user)

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Tamatsu does not expressly disclose:

- storing a purchase identifier that identifies a purchase of the selected product;
- encrypting a name of the selected product with a public key that is unique to the online shopping website

Oshima teaches that it is known to store a purchase identifier that identifies the purchase of a product (at least paragraph [0351]: order number) and to encrypt product-specific information (at least paragraph [0279]: virtual shop encrypts product registration number and product information) in a similar environment. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the anonymous electronic funds transfer method and system, as taught by Tamatsu and Chu, with the stored purchase identifier and encryption of product information, as taught by Oshima, since such a modification would have provided an electronic commerce system with more reliability security and ease of settlement through efficient use of product data (at least paragraph [0029] of Oshima).

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3. Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamatsu in view of Chu as applied above, and further in view of Oshima and Lin.

Tamatsu and Chu discloses an anonymous electronic shipping method comprising the steps of:

- receiving information about a product selected at a client terminal (at least paragraph [0081] of Tamatsu: user accesses product information)
- storing a monetary amount and a size of a product provided on an online shopping website (at least paragraph [0066] of Tamatsu: databases store product information including product price and product specifications)
- calculating a payment sum and shipping volume for the selected product based on the stored monetary amount of the product (at least paragraph [0081] of Tamatsu: prices, quantities and subtotal calculated and presented to user)

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Tamatsu does not expressly disclose:

- storing a purchase identifier that identifies a purchase of the selected product;
- sending, in response to designation of a shipping company, instructions to connect to a website of the designated shipping company to the client terminal, the instructions including the payment sum and the shipping volume.
- receiving shipping receipt results including the purchase identifier from a website of the designated shipping company
- encrypting a name of the selected product with a public key that is unique to the online shopping website to form a product name included in the purchase identifier.

Oshima teaches that it is known to store a purchase identifier that identifies the purchase of a product (at least paragraph [0351]: order number) and to encrypt product-specific information (at least paragraph [0279]: virtual shop encrypts product registration number and product information) in a similar environment. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the anonymous electronic funds transfer method and system, as taught by Tamatsu, with the stored purchase identifier and encryption of product information, as taught by Oshima, since such a modification would have provided an electronic commerce system with more reliability security and ease of settlement through efficient use of product data (at least paragraph [0029] of Oshima).

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Lin teaches that it is known to include connecting to a shipping company website in response to shipping company selection (at least paragraph [0030]: customer connected to shipping company upon selection), and receiving shipping results (at least paragraph [0030]: refund and delivery status results sent from clerk to user) in a similar environment. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the anonymous electronic funds transfer method and system, as taught by Tamatsu, with the shipping volume calculation, connecting to a shipping company website, and receiving shipping results, as taught by Lin, since such a modification would have provided more convenient and efficient e-commerce via a means for allowing a user to receive the best results from an after sales service and customer care, such as shipping or delivery (at least paragraphs [0012]-[0013] of Lin).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10-12, and 17-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Misiaszek whose telephone number is (571) 272-6961. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on (571) 272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael A. Misiaszek
Patent Examiner
7/6/2007


MATTHEW GART
PRIMARY EXAMINER